

Idaho will host a second TRADE Regional Delivery in May

Emergency Services Training was notified this week that the National Fire Academy has decided to work with Idaho to sponsor the 6-day NFA course entitled "Command and Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards." This class will be held at the Boise Fire Department Training Center in Boise May 17 to 22, 2004.

This six-day course is designed to introduce command officers to the complexities involved in commanding incidents in high-risk areas. Students are confronted with a number of fire and rescue incidents that include high life hazard, multiple exposure, and unusual occupancy risk considerations.

The students are taught advanced applications in Incident command System (ICS), command and control, decision making, strategic and tactical considerations, pre-incident preparation, documentation, and post-incident analysis. Several simulations and case studies are used to depict and review incidents in various types of target hazards. Some examples of these are penal institutions, bulk oil-storage facilities, nursing homes, colleges, chemical/agricultural manufacturing plants, and grain elevators. The course is very comprehensive and uses lecture, case study, simulation, and student participation as instructional methods.

Student Selection Criteria: Chief officers or other officers who would have the responsibility to command incidents involving target hazards.

Additionally, officers who eventually may have this responsibility and are upwardly mobile in their organizations may be considered. A letter from the chief and/or placement on an eligibility list is required for those candidates. Since this is a 6-day course, every effort will be made to accommodate the selection of both volunteer and career personnel.

Prerequisites: Demonstrated experience in the ICS and completion of a previous command course.

To attend, you must complete a FEMA form 75-5 application (long form) and submit it to the National Fire Academy for approval ASAP. We have about three weeks to get at least fifteen students registered and it will be on a first come first served basis.

I am including below the following special information from Bob Bennett, the National Fire Academy TRADE chair. He is in charge of these regional deliveries for the NFA, so read on and good luck with your applications!

Jerry Schroeder
Emergency Services Training

TIPS FROM BOB BENNETT

"The application can be obtained at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/75-5nf.pdf>. Be sure and fill it out, paying particular attention to the block 16, since this is what decides acceptance or rejection.

Put block 16 information on another sheet of paper with the name and SSN at the top and type SEE ATTACHMENT in the actual block 16. I'm attaching a sample block 16, don't use the exact wording, but "tweak" it for the individual and Department. Use the student selection criteria, the job descriptions and the course description I have included and tell how the individual will use it and how the Department will benefit from their attending. Be sure and include the individuals email address if they have one and then fax it to the number below.

A majority of the NFA Regional delivery courses are considered as "end user" courses, therefore do not make any reference in the block 16 about being an instructor or teaching the course in your agency unless the course is instructor related.

Don't try to "enhance" your chances of acceptance by adding experience or duties from another organization. For example: USAR team experience should not be mentioned unless applying as a member of the USAR team and not a Department. There must be a relationship between the organization applying from and the course, not just experience from anywhere.

Also on all applications make sure the title on line 22b of the approving signature on line 22a is either the Chief or the Training Chief of the Department. not just any "Chief" from the Department. If required, include a letter of recommendation and an organizational chart.

Here is some sample language for block 16, to give you an idea of what needs to be addressed:

As a (whatever, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief) who will have the responsibility of command at target hazard and multi-alarm incidents in my (city, community, etc) this course will provide me with the knowledge to assist me in decision making process while allowing me to recognize the strategic and tactical considerations for incidents in my (department, agency, etc). It will provide me with a process which will allow development of pre-incident plans which will allow better decision making and better prepare me to establish and transfer command to a higher level when necessary. My responsibilities are to establish the initial command structure for target hazards and multi-alarm incidents, develop a plan for the incident, pass that plan to the next higher level IC and assist in the implementation and modification of that plan. I have completed an Incident Command course through (whatever agency you took it through. This is a must). This course will also better prepare me to develop in-depth post-incident analysis to better serve my (department, agency, etc)

Please fax completed applications to:

Bob Bennett, Regional Deliveries Chair
National Fire Academy
fax number: 301-447-1005
RobertJ.Bennett@dhs.gov